



## "Fighting for California Taxpayers"

### Welcome

#### Dear Friends:

On June 6, 1978, California voters approved a landmark constitutional amendment that sparked tax revolts across the nation and brought consistency, stability, and justice to California's property tax system. Today, less than one week away from the 35th anniversary of Proposition 13's passage, that landmark constitutional amendment is at risk.

It is vital to explain what makes Proposition 13 so important, and why plans to destroy it could hurt Californians for years to come.

Before Proposition 13 passed in 1978, homeowners had become overwhelmed by decades of increasing tax assessments on their properties. Skyrocketing tax assessments threatened many, especially older Californians on fixed incomes, with the loss of their homes because they couldn't make the tax payments.

Voters were tired of waiting for the government to act while they were being taxed out of their homes. Proposition 13 provided relief by transforming a complex and unequal property tax system into predictable, manageable property tax bills for California property owners. It also built sturdy roadblocks to protect taxpayers from the tax-hiking whims of simple majorities in Sacramento.

Ever since then, the same special interests and tax-hungry politicians who had opposed Proposition 13 in 1978 have been fighting to undo that victory for fiscal sanity. Today, the threat to California property owners has never been greater.

One legislative attempt to overturn Prop. 13 protections for commercial



Friday, May 31, 2013

### In this Issue...

#### In the News

#### Upcoming Events

An update on taxpayer education events coming up in July.



*Steel presents a certificate of recognition to Rick Guidera of the Board of Equalization's Business Services Division for his hard work in making the Irvine BOE office more accessible and user-friendly for taxpayers, at her May 2 Open House.*

properties, AB 188 (Ammiano) was held in the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee this month, but six - count 'em, six - constitutional amendments to alter vote thresholds for local tax hikes continue to make their way through the state capitol. Decreasing vote thresholds will allow simple majorities to have their way with taxpayers wallets.

Today, because of Proposition 13, we Californians know how much tax we have to pay when we buy a property, and we can reliably estimate the payments every year. Homeowners on fixed incomes, who paid off their mortgages long ago, have no need to worry about being driven from their homes by higher taxes. And we can trust that local taxes will not be raised without the broad support of local communities.

Proposition 13, and the legislation built around it, has provided a protective barrier between the people of California and the tax spenders in Sacramento for 35 years. We must stand up and protect Proposition 13, because once that barrier is broken, it will not be easy to repair.

As always, I am honored to serve as your taxpayer advocate. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



**Michelle Steel**

Vice Chair

California State Board of Equalization

## In The News



*Vice Chair Steel with Assemblyman Donald P. Wagner at her Irvine Office Open House.*

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Sign up to Receive Tax Tips and Third District News!

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*Vice Chair Steel with Assemblyman*



*Steel with Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye on her visit to the United States to commemorate the sixty year alliance between the U.S. and Korea. Photo courtesy of the Blue House.*

### **The Economic and Criminal Consequences of Raising the Tobacco Tax**

(Joel Fox, Fox and Hounds Daily)

### **California State Board of Equalization Vice Chair Michelle Steel hosts small business seminar in Cypress**

(Orange County Breeze)

### **Cypress hosts a small business tax seminar**

(News Enterprise)

### **State tax teams plan visits to 11 more cities**

(Jan Norman, Orange County Register)

## **Upcoming Taxpayer Events**

*Travis Allen at her Irvine Office Open House.*

## **The Steel Summary May**

**2nd**—Steel hosts a free Small Business Seminar in Cypress, with Cypress Mayor, Dr. Prakash Narain, and City Council Member Mariellen Yarc.

**2nd**—Steel hosts Irvine District Office Open House.

**7th**—LA County Bar Association California Tax Practitioners' Conference.

**16th**—Steel attends the 23rd Annual Hanmi Family Counseling Center Dinner.

**22nd**—Board of Equalization Meeting in Sacramento.

**23rd**—Board of Equalization Meeting in Sacramento.

**27th**—Memorial Day.

## **June**

**11th**—Board of Equalization Meeting in Sacramento.

**13th**—Steel co-sponsors Accelerate Your Business 2013 with the Coastline Community College Institute for Economic Development in Garden



*Vice Chair Steel with (from left to right) Cypress City Council Member Mariellen Yarc, Mayor Prakash Narain, and Council Member Rob Johnson, at her free Cypress small business tax seminar.*

On **June 13**, I am sponsoring a free small business seminar at the Coastline Community College in Garden Grove, with Coastline Institute for Economic Development.

This free seminar is geared towards new business owners, entrepreneurs considering starting a business, and business owners that have questions about state or federal tax laws. Presentations include Basic Sales and Use Tax, Better Business through Better Records, State Income Tax and Small Business, Employee or Independent Contractor, U.S. Small Business Administration Loan Programs and Services, Developing Business Plans, and Business Marketing.

It is an excellent opportunity for small-business owners, and for those thinking of starting small-businesses, to network and to interact directly with state and federal tax agencies; to learn about their rights as taxpayers, and how to navigate our complicated state and federal tax codes.

You can register for this event by clicking [here](#).

On June 28th, I will be a special guest speaker at BOE Chairman Jerome Horton's Connecting Women to Power Business Conference at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

This conference will include expert-led panel discussions on topics geared toward entrepreneurial women, exhibitors offering free business assistance, breakout sessions on leadership, and an excellent opportunity for connecting with fellow women business-owners from across Southern California.

You can see the invitation for this event [here](#), and you can register by clicking

Grove.

**13th**—Steel speaks at the Newport-Mesa Tea Party in Costa Mesa.

**14th**—Steel attends the Orange County Republican Party's 14th Annual Flag Day Salute.

**25th**—Steel delivers opening remarks at the Korea Daily's third annual Leadership Camp in Los Angeles.

**28th**—Steel is the special guest at Board of Equalization Chairman Jerome Horton's Connecting Women to Power Business Conference at Cal State Dominguez Hills.



*Vice Chair Steel with Assemblywoman Diane Harkey at her Irvine Office Open House.*

## Taxpayer Links

*Helpful Links for California Taxpayers*

**Board of Equalization Links**

[Taxpayers' Rights Advocate](#)

[here.](#)

[Electronic Filing \(E-Services\)](#)

[Board of Equalization Forms](#)

[Seller's Permit Application](#)

[Verify Permit or License](#)

[California Use Tax Form](#)

[Claim for Refund Form](#)

**Franchise Tax Board Links**

[Franchise Tax Board Home Page](#)

[California Tax Service Center](#)

[Forms and Publications](#)

[Form 540 & Form 540A](#)

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